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# Landscape Gardening



MORE attention is being paid every year to the proper beautifying of grounds surrounding our homes. The increase of reading matter on this subject has caused us to become keenly alive to the fact that as much thought and attention should be given to the environment of a house as to the house itself, and we realize that a house and its surroundings should be considered as a whole.

Too often is the effect of a good picture spoiled in the framing, and the grounds of a home should be considered as a frame to the picture represented by the house. On the other



This most admirable planting is above criticism, and lends a charm to the landscape that makes you wish to linger, and as you pass you instinctively turn for one last look

hand, a poor picture may be wonderfully improved by proper framing, and in the same way a house, inartistic in itself, may be made a thing of beauty by giving extra attention to the laying out and beautifying of its surrounding grounds. The lawn may be considered the canvas upon which the house picture is to be made, and trees and shrubs, together with the buildings, make up the most important materials to be used in the work, and no satisfactory or beautiful home can be made without them.

To do this correctly, the first thing necessary is a well-executed plan of the property,

drawn to a scale, showing the shape, dimensions and position of the house. Walks and drives should be laid out with a view to their ornament and utility, and on this plan should be indicated the kind and variety and position of all trees and shrubs and plants advisable to use. All this requires expert knowledge. The day is past when property owners are willing to yield to the blandishments of the persuasive tree-salesman, and allow him to stick a tree here and a bush there and plants somewhere else, all considered solely with a view to the size of the order he wants to send in to the concern employing him. All over the country we see the result of such work, and many otherwise beautiful home grounds have been made grotesque. The ownership of a property carries with it the obligation of making that property pleasing to the eye and satisfying to the rapidly increas-



A broad unbroken stretch of grass

ing cultivation of our tastes. In fact, the grounds surrounding a home, reflect the individuality and tastes of the owner, and first impressions of people are often gained from the way they plant and keep the grounds surrounding their homes. No country can boast of so many beautiful trees, shrubs, roses, etc., as the United States, and with the addition of the choicest varieties from many other countries now offered by our Nurserymen, we have the greatest wealth of material for the most elaborate work of home beautification or Landscape Gardening.

With the above points in view, we offer a few hints as to the proper planting and care of a place, suggesting that no matter how small or large the property, be it a city lot or an estate of acres, if the work is to be well and intelligently done, it must be based upon a plan. In Landscape Gardening the eye of the mind must see two pictures: the work as it will look when completed, and as it will look years hence when mellowed by time with the full growth of the materials planted.



Somewhere about the grounds, perhaps in the center, there should be an unbroken sweep of grass. The outskirts should be planted in beds and masses with large projections, leaving spaces where, later, new shrubs and plants may be added at the owner's pleasure. The large growing plants must be set where, when fully grown, they will not hide the small ones. Trees with bold outlines give character to a place when growing near the boundaries; smaller choice varieties lend charm to the scene.

Drives and walks should be as few and as short as possible. Next to convenience, space must be considered. A slight curve is more graceful and natural in appearance than a straight line. Another fixed principle in Landscape Art is that walks, drives and plantings shall be so located as to leave as broad a stretch of open lawn as can be preserved.



**Hedging more beautiful and less expensive than fencing**

The ideal landscape consists of open spaces and pretty groups through a fitting frame work of trees, shrubs and flowers. A pretty bit of landscape can be made of almost every lawn or lot. It is always possible, in grouping and massing hardy stock, to preserve good views and hide objectionable ones.

The arrangement of trees or shrubs in the compact form of the hedge is under some conditions desirable and can often be done with pleasing effect, though generally only the very low hedge, one to three feet high, can be considered decidedly ornamental. For the complete seclusion of the nursery and play grounds, the clothes drying yard, etc., the large hedge may be allowed.

The borders should be set with shrubs and plants of good, low growing habit, that will retain their foliage to the root. All plants and shrubs of long, spindling growth, are in place at the center of beds, or in background.

Two methods of grouping are commonly practised. 1st.—The grouping of many flowering varieties in one mass so some kind may be in flower at all times from April to November. 2d.—The arrangement of masses of one species or variety together so as to produce very marked effects. The former will generally give the most satisfying results on small grounds, but on places of considerable extent, the most pleasing results will be obtained by planting many specimens of one kind in a group. For example, large groups of Forsythias, Spireas, Hydrangeas, Japan Snowball, etc., arranged in large masses, present beautiful effects and contrasts that cannot be obtained in any other way. By careful pruning and proper arrangement of beds or groups, shrubs may be made to keep as good form and appearance for many years as though newly planted, and repetition avoided: there need be no two groups alike.



Street scene showing effect of planting shrubbery between walk and curb

We cordially invite your attention to our system of practical Landscape Gardening. We have carefully studied soils, climate, trees, shrubs, plants, roses, etc., and are prepared to give our patrons the benefit of our past experience, and will give their work our personal attention. Every piece of ground will be thoroughly studied with reference to its use and surroundings, its advantages and charms, whether park, farm or private grounds. We make a specialty of drawing plans and specifications for the planting of places, no matter how large or how small, and will be pleased to hear from prospective customers. We guarantee satisfaction, and our charges for the work, based upon the conditions we have to meet, will be as moderate as it is possible to make them. We are ready and willing at all times to give our customers practical advice as to what to plant, how to plant it and how to get results—all this without extra charge, and will gladly answer all questions you may ask us along these lines.

Ask for our book, "Home Grounds. Their Planning and Planting."

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